

Public Notice – Environmental Cleanup Plan

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Department of Mines Minerals and Energy announce a public meeting to present a draft water quality cleanup plan (Implementation Plan) for Straight Creek and tributaries; Stone Creek, Ely Creek, Puckett Creek, Lick Branch, Baileys Trace and Gin Creek in Lee County. The agencies invite public participation and comments for the purpose of reducing pollutants to Straight Creeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 26, 2009 to June 26, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING: St. Charles Elementary School, which is located on Route 352 at St. Charles, Virginia, on May 26, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: This is the third public meeting on development of a watershed cleanup plan (Implementation Plan).

DESCRIPTION OF CLEANUP PLAN: DEQ has developed a total maximum daily load study, or a TMDL, for Straight Creek and its tributaries in Lee County, Virginia. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a stream can contain and still meet water quality standards. The stream has bacteria contamination that threatens human health and other contaminants that have harmed the aquatic life in the stream. To restore water quality, contamination levels need to be reduced to the recommended TMDL amounts. The cleanup plan will define ways to reduce contamination. The draft water quality cleanup plan can be found at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl/iprpts.html>.

The Straight Creek “impaired” stream segment includes about 38 miles of streams in the watershed. The entire length of Straight Creek from its headwaters to its confluence with North Fork Powell River is included. Stone Creek follows Route 421 west towards the Kentucky/Virginia state line. The TMDL study identifies sediment and conductivity/total dissolved solids as the stressors for aquatic life problems. The draft study proposes reductions in sedimentation, conductivity/total dissolved solids and bacteria so that the stream can meet the water quality standards.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice. Additionally, information on implementation plans and how they are developed is available at the DEQ website.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Shelley D. Williams.; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality-Southwest Regional Office, P. O. Box 1688, Abingdon, Virginia, 24212-1688; Phone: (276) 676-4845; E-mail: sdwilliams@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (276) 676-4899.